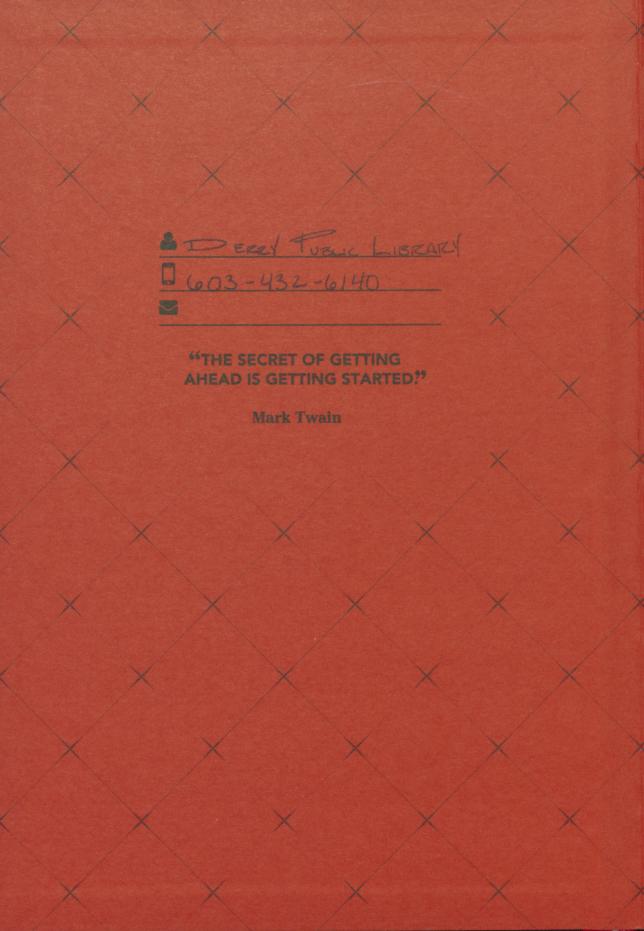
COLL



OBJECTIVES

"START BY DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY, THEN DO WHAT'S POSSIBLE AND SUDDENLY YOU ARE DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE."

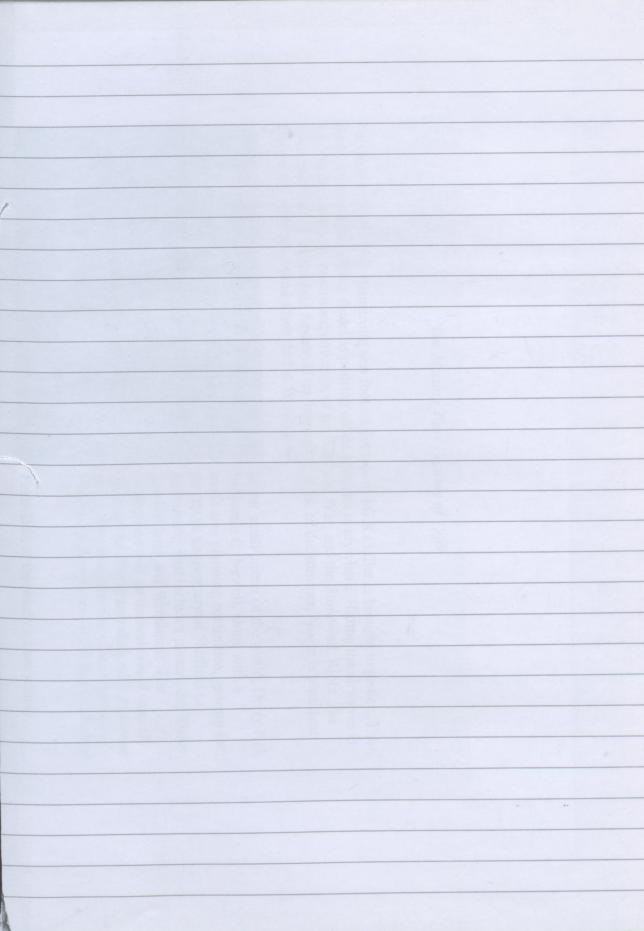
St Francis of Assisi

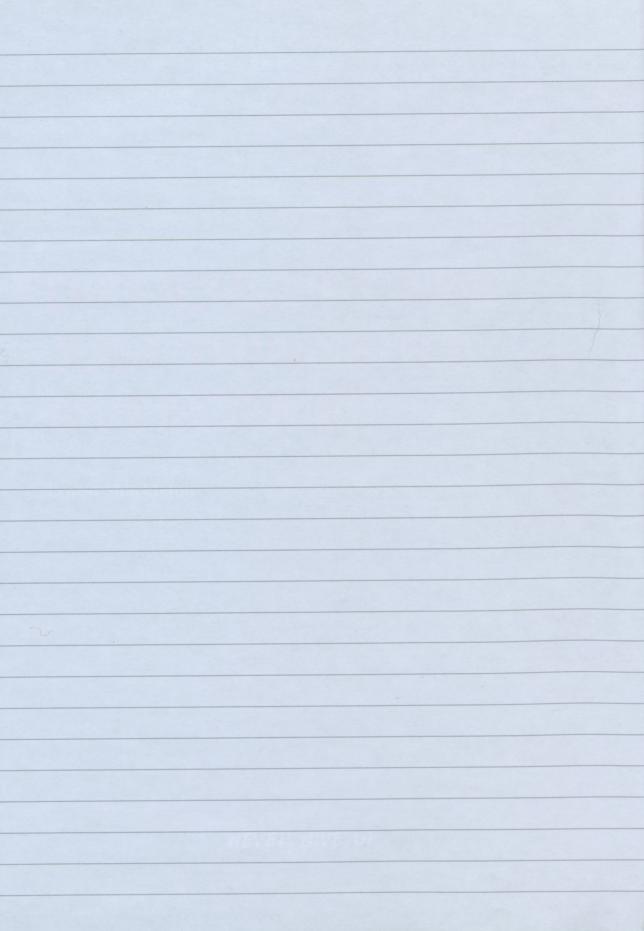
THE 1969 TIME CAPSULE
15 MISSING! TELL US YOUR
THEORY OF WHERE IT
ENDED UP! SERIOUS T
SILLY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
ACLEPTABLE (1)

NEVER GIVE UP

OFFICULTIES ARE JUST THINGS TO OVERCOME?

Ernest Shackleton





The year is 1969. Neil Armstrong sets foot on the moon. MLKs killer is brought to justice. The Beatles new album, *Abbey Road*, is pouring out of speakers everywhere. Hitting the airwaves is the Manson murders, continued coverage of the Vietnam War, and the Stonewall Riots. *The Love Machine* by Jacqueline Susann is the bestselling book of the summer, Nixon is president and people party hard (and some die) at Woodstock.



In our small corner of the world, Derry NH, Benjamin C. Newell, along with a motivated planning committee, gear up for the 250th anniversary of Nutfield (a community that includes present day Derry, Londonderry and Windham). The celebration will go unrivaled and span all three towns. Proud townfolk will showcase everything from the site of the planting of America's first potato to the farm of Robert Frost.

Festivities of the weekend are widely documented and feature:

Field Day Events, a beard judging contest (Brothers of the Brush), a costume contest (Sisters of the Swish), a "10 generations costume ball," historic tours, fife and drum exhibitions, talent

Schedule Of Anniversary Celebration Events 5.00-7 SUPPLRS: Grinnell School Cafe. 5-750 Been Supper - Growth School Seria & Windfarm Center School* Cafeteis (D) 7:00 p.m. Opening Program, MacGregor Park, Derry - Concert, Speakers 7:30 p.m. Frontier Parade - Start Masons' Cor. to Center School (W.) Teen Beauty Contest - Windham Bean Supper - First Church Reueion 200th Anawersary par-ticipants - Buckley Field 8:00 p.m. Hootenany - Big Tent "Screndiply Singers" (L)*
8:30 p.m. "10 Generations" Costanic Ball-8:00 g.m. "Teen Generation Dance", Hood 7:00 p.m. Talent show - Rig Tent - Long School, Derry* 10:00 p.m. Bon Fire - Center School (W) 11:00 p.m. Bon Fire - Indian Dance - Buck-Hood School (D)* 8:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m. Fireworks - Dunkan's Beach, ley Field, Derry 11:00 p.m. Fireworks - Buckley Field (D) Celebration Dauce School, Windham* FRIDAY, JULY 4TH 9:00 a.m. Londonderry's Pre-1800's Parade, 8:30 p.m. Square Dance - Tora Noonan Calling - Londonderry School* 11:00 p.m. FIREWORKS-LONDONDERRY SATURDAY, JULY 5TH starts Ralston's Store 9:00 a.m. Field Dsy, Turkey Shoot (L) 10:00a.m. "10 GENERATIONS ON PAR-9:00 3:00 Windham's Field Day for everyone at Center School, CENTRAL SCHOOL ADE" ALONG BROADWAY (D) 10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies Rides, Dis-Noon 'til 10 Country Fair, exhibitions, Balplays, Fair & Art Show, Horse SUNDAY, JULY 6TH Ioon ascension (D) 9:30 a.m. Ecumenical Big Tent Church Ser-1:00 p.m. Ancient Civil War Cannon Shoot -10:00 a.m. Bike & Carriage Parade - Hood Buckley Field Park (D) 1:30 p.m. Fife & Drum exhibition - Buck-1:00 p.m. Fire Muster, Mack's Orchard (L) 10:30 a.m. Sisters of the Swish, Costume Judging (L) lev Field 1:30-5:30 Historical Tours leaving Center 3:00 p.m. Anniversary of the First Church School (W) Noon 'till11:00 p.m. Country Fair - Buckley 2:00 p.m. Gymkana - Buckley Field Field - Rides (D) 3:00 p.m. Shave-Off - Londonderry Com-3:00 p.m. Free Square Dancing - Brothers 1:00 p.m. Field Day Events - Buckley Field of Brush - Buckley Field 3:30 p.m. Sisters-Of-The Swist Show - Lon 1:00 p.m. Indian Ceremonial Dancing (L) 4:00 p.m. Commemorative Medul AUC-2:00 p.m. Londonderry's Brothers of the donderry Common.

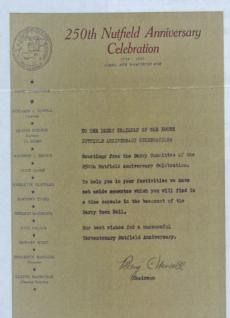
4:30 p.m. Ground Breaking - Nutfield Es-TION - Buckley Field Brush judging. 4:00 p.m. Neville Brass Concert - Pienic 2:00-8:00 Ice Cream Social, First Church (D) 5:00 p.m. Burying of Capsule for next 50 Londonderry Common 3:00 p.m. Bozo the Clown - Big Tent - Free 4:30 p.m. Cake Baking contest and Auction-5:00 p.m. BAR-B-QUE (L)* Buckley Field

shows, hootenanies, parades and the selling of memorabilia, like the commemorative coins specially made for the event by the Greater Derry Arts Council.

At the end of the whirlwind celebration, on Sunday July 6th, beards are shaved, the sisters of the swish perform a final show, and a time capsule is prepared and buried at MacGregor Park.







Or at least, that's what's reported in the *The Derry News* and other local papers. After the celebration, Ben Newell leaves this message for the 300th committee chair, stating that the 250th committee has left items in a time capsule in the basement of the Derry Town Hall.

Unfortunately, that's where the paper trail pretty much disintegrates.

Now, jump to the summer of 2019. People are bouncing to The Raconteurs, Billie Eilish and Khalid. *Where The Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens is hitting bestseller list after bestseller list. News reports of the southern border, big data and personal information in jeopardy clog our newsfeeds.

And here in Derry NH, the heritage commission gears up for the 300th anniversary of Nutfield, only to find an empty box no one really knows the history of tucked into the corner of the public library's NH Room.

https://www.wmur.com/article/derry-time-capsule-opened-to-reveal-nothing/28751016#





The box in itself is a conundrum. It's marked 300th instead of a date tying it to 1969.

Indeed, a plaque above the safe does indicate 1969, but a simple examination of the frame shows that the woodwork is from 2002.

The news is quick to point out that anyone could have accessed the safe in the NH room, seeing as the passcode to the safe was taped to the back. However, most librarians here find this puzzling and unlikely, seeing as the thief would have had to know that it was in the NH room (it is not cataloged). They would have had to know the passcode was on the back. They would have had to know how to open the complicated combination lock, and they would have had to smuggle the goods out in their clothes, since NH room users are required to leave their bags at the reference desk when they sign-in.

Of course, there is also the obvious: the time capsule shown in the coverage of the 250th looks nothing like the 300th safe and would probably not fit inside the box unless all contents were taken out.

Not impossible, but complicated.

Once the news of the empty safe hits the airwaves, Library Director, Cara Potter fields phone calls right and left. Callers are from the *Readers Digest, CNN*, locals and people from way-out-of-town. Everybody who was around in 1969 remembers... only they don't remember the same thing. There are many theories:

- Time capsule was never buried. It was just ceremonial.
- The time capsule was dug up by a thief before it was moved the town hall.
- Feuding town historians with vendettas were involved. One stealing it so the other would look bad.
- The safe marked 300th was a prank put on by committee members who were also part of Brothers of the Brush.
- The capsule was dug up during the 1989 library expansion and hidden behind drywall at the bottom of the old stairs

• Ben Newell was asked to unbury it during the library expansion of 1989 (Ben Newell passed away in 1988).



With every viable theory, librarians dig into the archives, pour over blueprints, track the past and phone elders. They learn how to use a metal detector, compare bricks in old images to bricks still standing, and try to rule out some theories. At least the ones at their fingertips.

They check MacGregor Park and the drywall at the bottom of the old stairs, which is now the boiler room.

In the park, they locate lots of dirt, bottle caps, Christmas lights. They become familiar with sound of shovel hitting rock as opposed to brick

(brick sounds so much more promising).



In the boiler room, they hook up an endoscopic camera to their laptop and check the drywall. They locate lots of pipe, much fiberglass, rusty water....

But a time capsule? No. No one spotted the elusive time capsule from 1969.

Perhaps its long gone.

Then again, perhaps not.

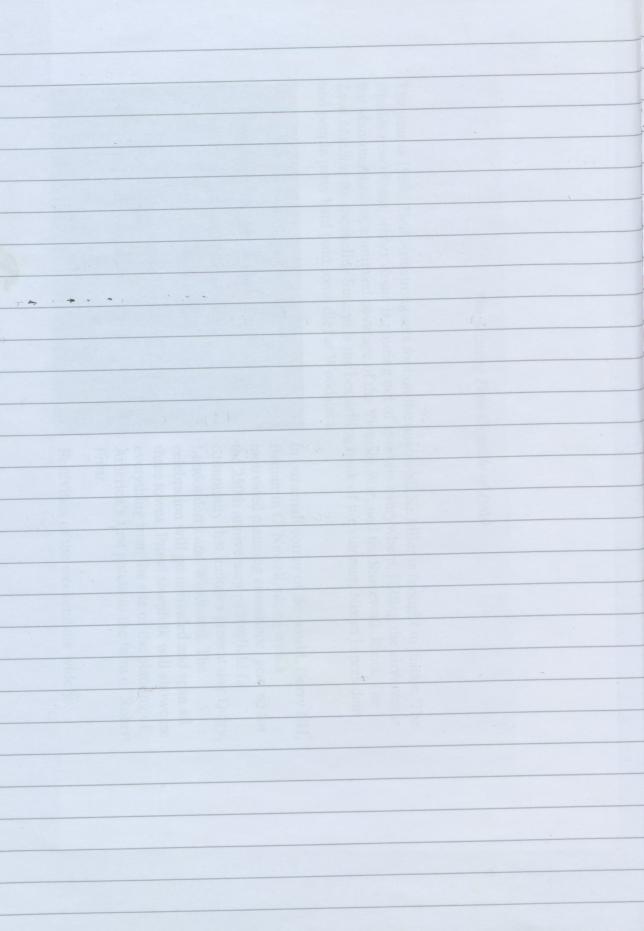
Perhaps it's still out there in the park, just a bit to the left or the right of the root system of that giant coniferous bush on the corner of the old MacGregor building. Or perhaps it was stored in the basement of the Town Hall and moved to storage when that building was torn down to make room for the CVS. Perhaps after the whirlwind of the 250th weekend, Ben Newell stopped by the Mason's lodge, where he was a 50 year member, and left the time capsule in a forgotten corner (and a DaVinci Code sized plot for the rest of us).

Either way, we've brought this little treasure hunt as far as we're able and now we want to hear from you. Swing by our table at Derryfest to look at memorabilia from the 1969 festivities, vote on your favorite missing time capsule theory, and then write your own theory in our book, to be archived in our NH room. We promise to leave a paper trail.

Best.

Erin Moulton Robinson

Teen/Reference Librarian



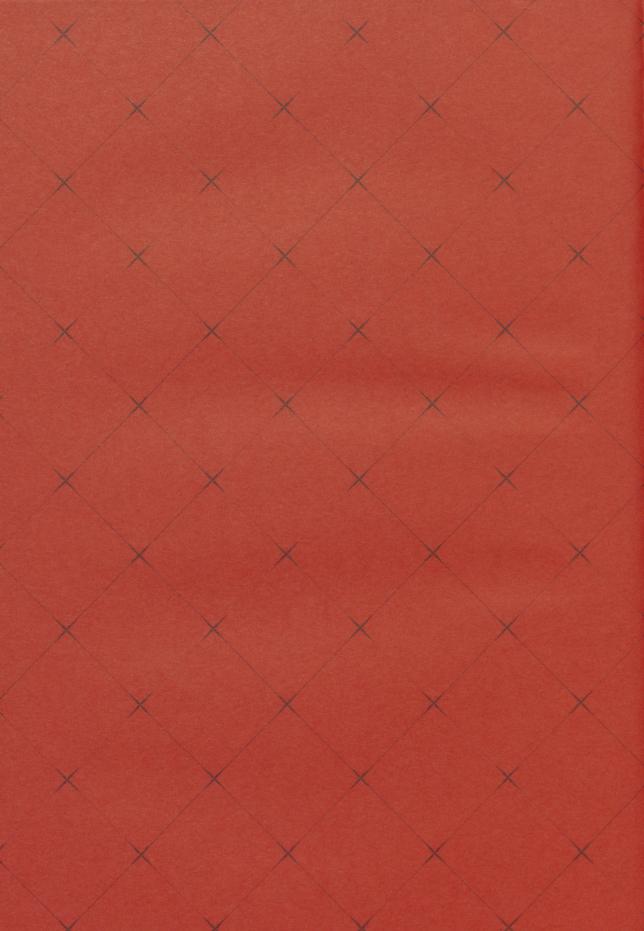
THE FEREN NEWS AND EVENT FROGRAMS RELORDED THAT THE TIME CAPSULE WAS BURIED. WE HAVE NO RELORD OF IT BEING DUG UT. I THINK IT'S STILL IN THE FACK, POT FARTHER DOWN IN THE GROWND DUE TO RENOVATION + LANDSCAPING In the librar, Mikarla Outside the library According to the photos in the derry News, it was buried by the corner of the library Dince we have nothing to prove anything to the contrary, I believe it still there Burned under that AUGE bush. " ON A DIFFERE WT CORNER OF THE BULLING Someone found out when they were excavating for the new part of the building and hept it hiden in a seacrite roum in the library.

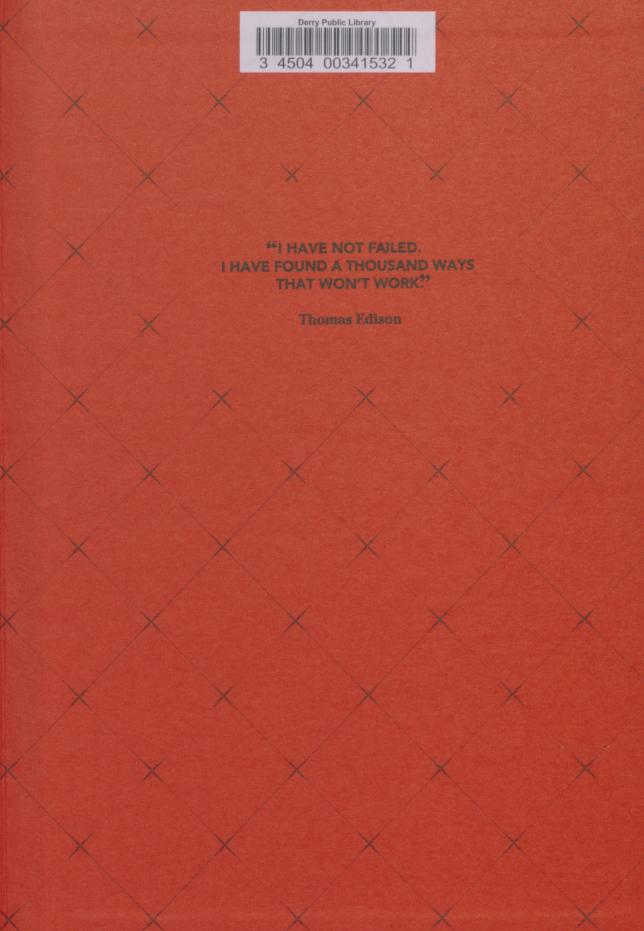
I think it is entangled in the wats Maybe the corpsule was uncovered and the items were all sold to the people in other places ... deep under the lilac bush it became lost in time until it is
Needed. art it toppret into Just Just, UNDER THE SANDBOX AT CLUBHOUSE AZNIER AN ALIEN TOOK IT : Good pond-eaten by Snalls.

Like, a wood born or something
Thefte thill I's Jook it forget under the libery . somarthy kelley Maybie somene 100 years ago got it and it is with one of his/hers reletives. Someone found out where it was, dug it up and swapped it with that one. Buried deeper ... Very deep Stolen by a compt polaricer? Ben took it to his grave with him? under the library Sloane Perkins

the a vood born or something the starte Maybip somene 100 years ask ast ander he library slower Perkins

NO SCANNED







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